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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Reports from San Francisco, Cal.—Plague statistics—Plague-prevention work at San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Emeryville, and Point Richmond, and in Contra Costa County, Cal.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue reports, April 12:

Total cases of plague at San Francisco verified bacteriologically to April 12, 121; total cases verified clinically, 38; total deaths, 77. The last case at San Francisco was taken sick January 30 and confirmed by bacteriological examination as plague, February 8, 1908. Date of finding of last infected rat, April 10.

The last case at Oakland, Cal., died December 22, 1907. The last plague-infected rats at Oakland were found during the week ended April 11, 1908. The only case at Berkeley, Cal., died September 1, 1907. The only case at Point Richmond, Cal., was taken sick November 27, 1907, and recovered.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Week ended April 11.

Sick inspected	27
Dead inspected	139
Premises inspected	21, 910
Houses disinfected	234
Houses destroyed	16
Buildings condemned	13
Nuisances abated	4, 793
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Rats found dead	687
Rats trapped	5, 732
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Total rats taken	6, 419
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Rats identified:	
Mus decumanus	4, 938
Mus rattus	124
Mus musculus	609
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Total	5, 671
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Bounty rats received	3, 717
Poisons placed	170, 157
Rats examined bacteriologically	3, 720
Rats infected with bacillus pestis	6

EMERYVILLE, CAL.

Week ended April 4.

Sick inspected.....	52
Premises inspected.....	30
Rats found dead.....	73
Rats trapped.....	128
Nuisances abated.....	48
Poisons placed.....	4, 471
Notices served.....	5

POINT RICHMOND, CAL.

Week ended April 4.

Sick inspected.....	2
Dead inspected.....	6
Premises inspected.....	200
Nuisances abated.....	43
Rats found dead.....	17
Rats trapped.....	108
Poisons placed.....	4, 800

OAKLAND, CAL.

Week ended April 11.

Sick inspected.....	183
Dead inspected.....	40
Premises inspected.....	10, 737
Houses disinfected.....	4
Nuisances abated.....	1, 808
Rats found dead.....	237
Rats trapped.....	1, 126
Poisons placed.....	197, 670
Notices served.....	1, 199
Ships inspected.....	27
Certificates signed.....	10
Theaters fumigated.....	7
Rats examined bacteriologically.....	614
Rats infected with bacillus pestis.....	12

BERKELEY, CAL.

Week ended April 11.

Dead inspected.....	5
Premises inspected.....	1, 975
Nuisances abated.....	4
Rats found dead.....	40
Rats trapped.....	8
Poisons placed.....	35, 376
Notices served.....	3

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY.

Week ended April 11.

Sick inspected.....	60
Dead inspected.....	1
Premises inspected.....	961
Nuisances abated.....	130
Rats trapped.....	67
Poisons placed.....	4 941
Notices served.....	100

Outgoing quarantine transactions.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Hobby reports, April 11:

Week ended April 4:	
Vessels fumigated and certified.....	72
Vessels certified.....	45

Reports from Seattle, Wash.—Plague-prevention work—Plague rats found.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Glover reports, April 6:

Week ended April 4.

Rats received	1, 040
Rats necropsied	934
Rat found plague infected.....	1
Plague rats to date.....	6
Vessels fumigated	5

The last case of plague at Seattle died October 30, 1907. During the week ended April 4, 1908, one rat, found March 25, 1908, was proven to be plague infected.

The "old depot" mentioned in the telegraphic report of plague rats found at Seattle [see Public Health Reports, April 10, 1908, page 443, and April 17, 1908, page 477] is situated on the east side of Railroad avenue at the foot of Columbia street, and separated from the immediate water front by a broad stretch of railroad tracks. All of this district is built on piling over low-lying tide ground, and the custom has been for years to use the space beneath the buildings as a receptacle for sewage and garbage. This particular block has in it a meat market with a sail loft overhead, a butter factory, a curio store, a restaurant, a fruit and candy stand, two commission houses, an express office, and a secondhand store.

The meat market, butter factory, and restaurant have been closed by the health commissioner. The peculiar difficulty of making an efficient campaign against the rats in this locality lies in its topography. Along the whole water front and extending back to solid land, a distance of perhaps two city blocks, is an open space under buildings infested by rats, and filled with refuse, constituting unlimited food and shelter for them. It is therefore impossible to define any limits to the focus of infection other than to say in general terms the water front. An effort is to be made to obtain a more definite location of the rats brought in from this district.

Summary of laboratory work and fumigation of vessels at Seattle during the month of March and week ended April 11, 1908—Changes in the system of municipal health department.

Assistant Surgeon Chapin reports, April 1, 6, and 13:

The following is a report of the work done in the plague laboratory during March, 1908:

Four thousand four hundred and nineteen rats were delivered at the laboratory, of which 3,610 were examined post-mortem. No positive diagnoses have been made, but a number are still under consideration.